

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00327 161421Z

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-01 SS-07 NSC-06 RSC-01 /025 W

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R 161100Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9845

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 0327

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL

REF: TEHRAN 342

1. DATT HAS RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE TO THE CONGRESS INFORMING HIM THAT A GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN FROM HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ARE TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA. PRESUME THIS IS THE SAME GROUP REFERRED TO IN REFTEL. PLEASE INFORM US ASAP.

2. WE ARE FIRMLY OF THE OPINION THAT VISITS BY LARGE GROUPS OF CONGRESSMEN ARE VIRTUALLY WORTHLESS. THE SAUDIS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HANDLE THEM AND THEY WILL RECEIVE ONLY THE MOST SHALLOW IMPRESSIONS OF THEIR VISIT. WE STRONGLY ENDORSE VISITS BY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUPS OF TWO OR THREE CONGRESSMEN AS WE ARE GENERALLY ABLE TO INSURE THAT THEY SEE THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE AND GATHER VALID AND WORTHWHILE IMPRESSIONS. WE HOPE THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO DISCOURAGE A SHORT VISIT BY 25 CONGRESSMEN AND STAFF MEMBERS TO SAUDI ARABIA, IF SUCH A VISIT IS INDEED PLANNED. AT THE SAME TIME WE WOULD HOPE THE DEPARTMENT COULD ENCOURAGE MORE CONGRESSMEN TO COME TO SAUDI ARABIA INDIVIDUALLY OR IN SMALL GROUPS.

3. WE ALSO NOTE THE EXTRADRDINARY CONSISTENCY WITH WHICH OUR RECENT VISITORS HAVE ARRIVED LATE WEDNESDAY EVENING AND HAVE LEFT EARLY SATURDAY MORNING. THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD POINT OUT TO ALL

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PROSPECTIVE VISITORS THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN APPOINTMENTS

WITH SAUDIS THURSDAY MORNING, ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE THURSDAY EVENING AND
THAT THE SAUDI FRIDAY IS CONSIDERABLY MORE INVOLABLE THAN THE
AMERICAN SUNDAY.
AKINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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